

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, and 12-14 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 22-35 have been added; support is found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Turning now to the Office Action dated April 26, 2001:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 3, 6, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims. Claims 3, 6, and 11 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claims from which each previously depended; the scope of each of claims 3, 6, and 11 is not thereby changed. As now amended, Claims 3, 6, and 11 are in condition for allowance.


The rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, and 12-14 are moot, by virtue of their cancellation without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants have added claims 22-35 to provide an additional scope of protection.

Applicants submit that independent claims 22 and 25 are allowable over the art cited in the Office Action, namely, U.S. Patent No. 4,101,294 (Kimura), U.S. Patent No. 4,068,625 (Brown), U.S. Patent No. 4,003,969 (Robinson), U.S. Patent No. 4,758,350 (Pitts et al.), and U.S. Patent No. 5,122, 264 (Mohr et al.).

As recited in claim 22, a humidifying gas induction or supply system comprises, inter alia, a nonporous hydrophilic membrane surface, which is integral to said air inlet and communicates with said water reservoir. As recited in claim 25, an engine comprises a humidifying air induction or supply system comprising, inter alia, a nonporous hydrophilic membrane surface, which is integral to said air inlet and communicates with said water reservoir.

None of Kimura, Brown, Robinson, Pitts et al., and Mohr et al., whether taken alone or in any combination with one another, discloses or suggests a nonporous hydrophilic membrane surface, which is integral to an air inlet and communicates with a water reservoir, in a humidifying gas induction or supply system, as recited in claim 22, or in a humidifying air induction or supply system, as recited in claim 25. Kimura discloses a microporous barrier (see, e.g., column 3, lines 5-61). Brown discloses water permeable, porous material (see, e.g., column 2, line 32 to column 3, line 9). Robinson, Pitts et al., and Mohr et al. are each simply silent with respect to surface,



let alone type of surface, which is integral to an air inlet and communicates with a water reservoir.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claims 22 and 25 are allowable over the cited art.

Dependent claims 23-24 and 26-35 allowable for the same reasons. In addition, each dependent claim recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Finally, Applicants are filing simultaneously herewith corrected drawings in response to the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review included in the Office Action dated April 26, 2001.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points recited by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that the present application is in allowable form. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



J. KENNETH JOUNG
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
REGISTRATION NO. 41,881
TELEPHONE: (302) 992-4929
FACSIMILE: (302) 992-3257

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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In showing below the changes made, deletions are in brackets and additions are underlined.

3. (amended) A [The] humidifying gas induction or supply system [of claim 2, further] comprising:

a hydrophilic membrane surface;

a water reservoir integrally formed with said hydrophilic membrane surface;

and

a hood arranged to regulate an area of said hydrophilic membrane surface exposed to one of said [the] water reservoir and said [the] gas induction or supply system.

6. (amended) An [The] engine comprising:

a humidifying air induction or supply system comprising:

a hydrophilic membrane surface;

a water reservoir integrally coupled with the hydrophilic membrane surface; and

[according to claim 5, further comprising] a hood arranged to regulate an area of said hydrophilic membrane surface exposed to one of said [the] water reservoir and said [the] air induction or supply system.

11. (amended) A [The] motorized vehicle [according to claim 10, further] comprising:

a humidifying air induction or supply system comprising:

a hydrophilic membrane surface;

a water reservoir coupled to the hydrophilic membrane surface; and

a hood arranged to regulate an area of said hydrophilic membrane surface exposed to one of said [the] water reservoir and said [the] air induction or supply system.

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